



Newsline

New giant voice

Giant voice testing begins April 18. The wing is having a new giant voice system installed throughout the base, including housing areas. Gunfighters can expect numerous tests during a three-week period.

Ribbon cutting

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new housing area across from the elementary school is scheduled for today. Gunfighters are invited to the ceremony at 10:30 a.m. at Willow Circle near the intersection of Phantom and Gunfighter Ave. Parking for the event is in the base exchange parking lot.

Horse stables

A ribbon cutting ceremony to commemorate the horse stables takes place today at 3:30 p.m. there.

Airbase Road construction

Please be patient while the road work on Airbase Road continues through the end of May. Traffic patterns will be changing so drive safely and be aware of the new, lower speed limits. If possible, avoid the heaviest congestion between 7 and 7:30 a.m. Supervisors are encouraged to stagger shifts as allowed.

Microsoft Word class

The family support center is sponsoring a free Microsoft Word class in partnership with Boise State University, thanks to a community grant from the Air Force Aid Society's Spouse Employment Initiative. Classes will be held Tuesday evenings April 27 to May 18. Requirements include being an active-duty Air Force spouse, have a high school diploma or equivalent, be able to attend all four classes, and have basic typing or computer skills. Upon successful completion of course, attendee will receive one college credit. Class size is limited. Sign-ups accepted beginning today at the family support center, 828-2458. Ask for Ms. Marilyn Nevala for more information.

Unit fitness

Units can perform group fitness at the fitness center annex, formerly Stephenson Middle School, Mondays through Thursdays 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Two circuits are available for unit use. A large circuit accommodates up to 40 people and a smaller circuit accommodates up to 20 people. A 1.5 mile run is marked around the block. Locker rooms with shower facilities are available. Gunfighters should park in the north end of the base exchange parking lot. Units can schedule the annex by calling the fitness center at 828-2381.

Jodi Callahan scholarship

This Air Force Association scholarship is in memory of Capt. Jodi Callahan and provides \$1,000 to selected Air Force active-duty, full-time guard or reserve members pursuing a Master's Degree in a non-technical field of study. Completed applications must be mailed to the Aerospace Education Foundation before June 30.

Stop by base training and education services center for the application and more information.

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Photos by SSgt. Kathy Myles

Scrub a dub dub

A1C Swift Moon, 366th Civil Engineer Squadron, performs decontamination with the fire department outside Bldg. 512 during the major accident response exercise 04-01 April 2. For more photos of the exercise see page 6.

Gunfighter selected to tour with Tops in Blue

By Maj. Bradford Montgomery
366th Services Squadron commander

When 2nd Lt. Michael Krom, 366th Logistics Readiness Squadron, received word that he'd been chosen to perform with Tops in Blue 2004 he almost could not believe it.

"It was just so surreal, and I had no idea I would actually be selected," he said. 2nd Lt. Krom currently serves as chief of personnel support.

The way he was informed was unique.

"Colonel Lemmon, the mission support group commander, came to the fitness center where my squadron was working out and did this sort of Top Gun routine," said 2nd Lt. Krom. "It was the classic line from the movie where Maverick is being chastised by his commanding officer for being a 'Hot Dog' in the jet. He called me out of the group and started rattling off these things I had [supposedly] done wrong. And I was actually beginning to become concerned when, suddenly, he smiled and said, 'Despite all your screw ups, I'm going to do something I can't believe I have to do—you're going to Tops in Blue!'"

Two weeks earlier 2nd Lt. Krom had been invited to

audition at the Worldwide Talent Contest at Lackland AFB, Texas. Tops in Blue 2003 put on a mini show for the attendees and provided a preview of what to expect if they were selected.

Every year the Tops in Blue staff screens hundreds of performers from all over the Air Force and selects 30 finalists to join the world renowned ensemble on tour. Each contestant is scored on an interview with the director, an audition specific to their specialty and their performance during the final show which concludes the one-week audition.

During the full week of auditions professional entertainers are brought in to help contestants as team leaders. Each contestant is assigned a team leader who helps tweak their vocals and teaches them to work the crowd. The auditions are very detailed, said 2nd Lt. Krom.

"During this time they check your ability to sight read music, your vocal range, your ability to harmonize, tonality or how well you listen to music and how many different styles of music you can sing. That determines what genres you'll be comfortable with," said 2nd Lt. Krom.

Tops in Blue is world class entertainment performed by Air Force personnel for Airmen and their families to pro-

See Blue, page 3

Speeder awareness

I came onto base at a quarter to six this morning and as I went past the lights at the hospital turnoff, a vehicle went by me on the right-hand side doing at least 40 mph.

Then it swerved back in front of me into the left lane and kept going onto base. I followed it and got the license. If it had been an emergency I could understand it, but it obviously wasn't since I followed the car on to the main base road. I'd sure like to know what's going on.

Your dedication to reporting traffic problems within the community is appreciated. Unfortunately, security forces patrol coverage is somewhat limited, so we rely on individuals like you to report complaints about traffic or other activity which potentially endangers members of our community. As you point out, this kind of reckless driving needs to be corrected. Your complaint is being pursued by the security forces squadron to identify this offender and take appropriate action. Hopefully you don't run into this situation in the future. But if you see it again, the law enforcement desk personnel are always available to take your traffic complaint at 828-2256. This will prompt the patrols to look for the offender and make the appropriate notification to the individual's unit to correct the problem or, if necessary, issuing a traffic citation.

Commander's Hotline

This Hotline is your direct line to me.

It's your opportunity to make Mountain Home AFB a better place to live and work.

I review every response to Hotline questions, but functional experts prepare most responses.

If possible, you should first contact the organization responsible for the problem or function.

Your first sergeants, commanders and agency chiefs want to help, so please let them try.

If you do not know how to proceed or if you have already tried your chain of command, then do not hesitate to contact the Hotline at 828-6262 or CommandersHotline@mountainhome.af.mil.

Not all Hotlines are published, but if you leave your name and phone number or e-mail address, I will make sure you get a reply.



Col. Hansen

Col. Blair Hansen
366th Fighter Wing commander

ACC team visit develops baseline

By Lt. Col. Timothy Domek
Gunfighter Staff Judge Advocate

Recently Gunfighters hosted a visit from the Air Combat Command Sexual Assault Response Team.

The purpose of the team's visit was to develop a baseline of information regarding the scope of the sexual assault problems at ACC installations and to learn of responses and programs available to prevent and combat sexual assault.

I have often heard victims give reasons for not reporting sexual assault, such as the embarrassment of reporting and the perceived bad treatment of victims by the legal system.

At Mountain Home we have numerous resources to help victims overcome any feelings of shame or guilt often associated with sexual assault. The chapel, life skills, and first sergeants are all resources that are committed to help-

ing victims of sexual assault.

The Gunfighter legal office also works to ensure victims are treated with dignity and respect and receive the full range of resources and programs to help with the trauma of sexual assault.

The office has dedicated and caring paralegals who act as liaisons whenever a witness or victim of a crime needs help. The victim witness assistance program liaisons know how the program works and care deeply about helping victims of crime.

Part of the apprehension about becoming involved in our legal process stems from the adversarial nature of our system.

It's the adversarial nature of our system that generates most of the complaints about our system being slow or hostile and insensitive to the needs of victims. "Putting the victim on trial" is a quote I have heard far too often in my



career.

Rest assured, in addition to our mission of achieving justice, the Gunfighter legal team will be fighting just as hard as the law allows to protect the legal interests and the dignity of any crime victim, especially victims of sexual assault.

It is important for any crime victim to make a timely report.

Discipline is the soul of an army. Those words were spoken by George Washington over 220 years ago.

It is equally true today. Maintaining discipline requires timely and complete reporting of crimes, coupled with thorough investigation, and aggressive prosecution when warranted.

The Gunfighter legal office is committed to aggressively fulfilling our military justice mission and compassionately executing our part of the VWAP program.

Last DUI:

(As of noon Thursday)

366th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Days without a DUI:

10

AADD made 9 saves since March 26, 64 in 2004



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All photographs are Air Force photographs unless indicated.

Deadlines: All articles intended for publication in *The Gunfighter* must be submitted to the 366th Fighter Wing, Public Affairs Office, 366 Gunfighter Ave., Bldg. 512, Suite 314, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho 83648, by noon Friday. All submissions will be considered for publication based on news value and timeliness. Every article and photograph will be edited for accuracy, clarity, brevity and appropriateness. All articles will be edited to conform with the AP Stylebook and Libel Manual as stipulated in Air Force Instruction 35-101.

Coverage: Coverage of upcoming events should be arranged in advance by calling the public affairs office at 828-6800 or by sending an electronic message to pa.news@mountainhome.af.mil.

Classified Ads: Free classified advertisements of a non-commercial nature are published in *The Gunfighter* on a space-available basis. Free advertising is limited to: Air Force people (active and retired), Department of Defense civilian employees and their family members. Ad forms are available in Bldg. 512. Deadline for free classified advertisements is 5 p.m. Monday.

Welcome to Gunfighter
Country — home of a
winning attitude!



Air Force Awards

1



Air Combat Command Award





Photo by SSgt. Kathy Myles

Top honors

Idaho Governor Dirk Kempthorne speaks with fellow Honorary Gunfighters at the annual kick-off party April 1 at the Gunfighters Club. Governor Kempthorne, Chairman Terry Gibson of the Shoshone-Paiute tribes, and Mr. Eric Davis, local rancher and advocate for Gunfighters, were also inducted into the Honorary Gunfighter Hall of Distinction.

Briefly

Job Fair

A job fair is scheduled for April 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Gunfighters Club. Employers representing aviation, electronics, hospitality, maintenance, retail, security, law enforcement and many others will be available for questions and to take resumes. Event is open to all military card ID holders. For more information, call the family support center at 828-2458.

Volunteer Excellence Award

The family support center is now taking nominations for the Volunteer Excellence Award and have forms available. All forms must be turned in by April 16.

To be eligible, an individual's service must be performed in the local civilian community, and/or the military family community.

The volunteer service may have been donated time at another military installation or civilian community. The award is made only once in a lifetime and may be made posthumously.

Eligible persons must be nominated by their supervisors or by the volunteer agencies where they donated their services. A review board evaluates nominations and the wing commander has final approval authority. Awards will be presented during National Volunteer Week in April at the wing quarterly awards luncheon. For more information call the FSC at 828-2458.

Safety reminder

Be smart! Ensure seatbelts are always buckled when in a vehicle.

AFAF: Commitment to Caring runs through May 7

**By MSgt. Gregory Westbrook and
1st Lt. Eugenia Ramirez**
AFAF representatives

March 29 marked the kickoff of the Mountain Home AFB 2004 Air Force Assistance Fund campaign, which runs until May 7. The Air Force is looking to raise \$5.2 million this year, with Mountain Home AFB's contributory goal set at \$56,594. "Commitment to Caring" is this year's theme, and here are some of reasons why people might care.

The AFAF campaign raises money each year for four charitable organizations benefiting active-duty, Reserve, Guard, and retired Air Force people and their families, including surviving spouses. The following is a brief explanation of these organizations and how they help Air Force members and their families.

The Air Force Aid Society is the official charity of the Air Force, accessible worldwide for emergency financial assistance. Top priority is given to active-duty members and their families, but consideration is also given to retirees and widows on a case-by-case basis. Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard members on extended active duty under Title 10 may also be eligible for emergency assistance when circumstances warrant. The Air Force Aid Society also offers education assistance programs and an array of base-level, community enhancement programs.

Call the family support center at 828-2458 for more information on its programs and eligibility. Information is also available on the Web at <http://www.afas.org>.

The Air Force Enlisted Foundation located in Shalimar, Fla. near Eglin AFB, provides rent subsidy and other support to indigent widows and widowers of retired en-

listed people who live among peers sharing memories of Air Force life without the stigma normally associated with subsidized housing facilities.

Those eligible are widows and widowers, 55 and older, whose spouses retired from enlisted service in the regular Air Force, Air National Guard or Air Force Reserve.

For more information, send an e-mail to afef@afenlistedfoundation.org, or check the Web site at www.afenlistedwidows.org.

The Air Force Village Indigent Widow's Fund, located in San Antonio, is a life-care community for retired officers, spouses, widows or widowers and their family members. This indigent widows fund provides support to indigent widows and widowers of Air Force officers.

For more information visit their Web site at <http://www.airforcevillages.com>.

The General and Mrs. Curtis E. LeMay

Foundation assists indigent widows or widowers who do not want or are not able to move into one of the above retirement homes. The LeMay foundation provides rent and financial assistance in their own home or community. For more information visit their Web site at <http://www.afvw.com/lemay.html>.

Donations to the AFAF campaign can be made through cash or check contributions or payroll deduction. Contributors may designate their contributions to one or more of the four charities and 100 percent of their AFAF contribution is passed to their chosen charities. Contributions to the AFAF are deductible for Federal Income Tax purposes as an itemized deduction.

Over the course of the next weeks, an AFAF key worker from each unit will personally contact and provide Gunfighters the opportunity to contribute to these worthy organizations.

Blue

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vide mission productivity enhancement. In a normal year the tour will cover the globe performing at bases across the United States and in places like Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kuwait, Iraq, Turkey, Germany, Japan and South Korea.

"To give you some idea how busy their schedule is, last year The Tops in Blue 2003 performed 12 shows in 12 days, in nine countries, in four different time zones," said Ms. Terry Smith, operations assistant for Tops in Blue.

Although 2nd Lt. Krom admits that performing with Tops in Blue will be new to him, he is no stranger when it comes to singing and choreography. He graduated in

1993 from Lincoln High School in Manitowoc, Wis., where, as a male vocalist, he routinely performed Broadway musicals and jazz in the school choir. "Going into the audition, I pretty much knew what was to be expected as singing and choreography is part of both high school and Tops in Blue auditions and performances."

2nd Lt. Krom, who enlisted in the Air Force after high school, says he knew all along while growing up he would serve in the Air Force. His influence to join was, in no small part, due to his grandmother and grandfather, both of whom had served in the Army during World War II.

2nd Lt. Krom was promoted to staff sergeant in 1999 before he set his sights on earning a Bachelor of Science

in Education and becoming a commissioned officer.

When asked how he would describe his secret for success with others, the lieutenant explained "it comes down to believing in yourself and believing in your abilities and going after whatever it is you want."

After Tops in Blue his long-term goal is to remain in the military and reach the rank of lieutenant colonel prior to retirement. After that he plans to teach at a college or university and possibly become the dean of a school.

Personnel interested in auditioning for Tops in Blue can learn more by calling DSN 487-6566 or (210) 652-6566 or logging on to the Air Force Services Web page at <http://www.afsv.af.mil/TIB>.



Gunfighter Attic

Gunfighters helping Gunfighters

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Lucas Ritter
Gunfighter public affairs

An attic is often thought of as a place to store seasonal decorations or a somewhere to put old, unused items. The Gunfighter Attic, located in the Envision Center building, is much more than just a place to store unused items. This attic is nonprofit organization sponsored by the first sergeants council that helps a wide variety of people.

"We do not just help Airmen," said Ms. Tammi Skaleski, Gunfighter Attic manager. "Any one who has a legitimate need can come and use the attic."



Ms. Kim Kish, Gunfighter Attic assistant manager, logs a customer's items at the attic Wednesday.

The attic is a place where people can come and get items such as clothing, dishes, electronics and linens free of charge. These items are donated to the attic by Gunfighters who no longer have a need for them.

The biggest part of the attic's inventory is clothing items including used military uniform items. Besides clothing they also have larger items such as furniture, beds and cribs.

According to Ms. Skaleski the furniture and uniform items are reserved for Gunfighters who are E-5 and below. "We want to make sure that these items are going to those who really need them. The attic also donates uniform items to the VFW and civil air patrols in the area. Because we do not charge for any of our items we require that a person taking a couch or a chair or washers and dryers has a letter from his or her first sergeant to verify the need."

One program that the Gunfighter Attic has initiated is a "starter kit" for those Airmen leaving the dorms and moving out on their own. The kit provides Airmen with a set of dishes including utensils, plates, bowls, a coffee maker and bed linens. Another program is "Hammond's Babies," started in honor of A1C Walter Hammond, a Gunfighter who died in a snowmobile accident in February. The program provides hand-made baby quilts and other items to newborns at the base hospital. The first benefactor of this program will be A1C Hammond's own child, due to arrive this spring.

Each item that comes into the attic is documented and the attic volunteers track each item that leaves. The volunteers also track who comes into the attic and what they

take. Gunfighters are allowed to take 20 items of clothing per family member and 20 household items per family per month.

"From March to December of last year the attic volunteers logged more than 4,000 hours," said Ms. Skaleski. "I have three assistants and ten volunteers who work here on a regular basis, but there are lot of people that help out when they can. Anyone can help us out by picking up donations, repairing items or washing clothes."

The attic does not just help those that are tied to the military. Items that are not taken after a month or two are taken to places like the Boise Rescue Mission and other places for them to use. Today the attic will donate 10 to 20 bicycles to the Boise Rescue Mission and another 10 bikes to the Richard McKenna alternative school in Mountain Home for their physical education program.

The attic operates off of donations from the people who use it and other organizations on base. The money is used for normal operating expenses, but they also purchase some items for people.

"Right now we have 12 people waiting for cribs," said Ms. Skaleski. "We try and purchase good quality items like this for people in need if we have to. We have bought items like this from garage sales or wherever we can get a good deal. If items can not be sold at a yard sale they can call the attic and we will come and pick it up. We can always find someone who can use an item."

The attic is open for operation 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and the first Saturday of the month. For more information about the Gunfighter Attic call 828-4735 or Ms. Skaleski at 832-1157.

Thrift savings plan open season declared

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) — Civilian and military employees can sign up for, or change, their Thrift Savings Plan contribution amounts during the open season April 15 to June 30. "TSP is a long-term retirement savings plan which everyone should consider," said SMSgt. Felipe Ortiz, superintendent of the Air Force Personnel Center contact center here. "It's a great supplement to military- and civilian-retirement plans.

"It's also important to note that TSP is not limited to investing in stocks," SMSgt. Ortiz said. "People can choose safer government securities as well."

This open season applies only to regular contributions. It does not include catch-up contributions, as they are not tied to open seasons, said Janet Thomas, of AFPC's civilian benefits and entitlements service team.

The plan offers investors the chance for lower taxes each year they contribute while not having to pay taxes on earnings until they reach retirement.

Investment money is deposited directly from each paycheck "so you never have to think about it," Sergeant Ortiz said. "That

makes it easy to 'pay yourself first' while only investing what you deem appropriate."

"As with any individual retirement account, the sooner you begin contributing, the better," Ms. Thomas said.

Contribution elections/changes made between April 15 and June 12 take effect June 13, for both military and civilian people. Changes made on or after June 13 become effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is made for civilians and the following month for military. Some of the specifics of the program include:

Airmen can contribute up to 9 percent of their base pay, as long as the annual total of tax-deferred investment does not exceed \$13,000 for 2004. Airmen also have the ability to invest all or part of their bonuses or special pay.

Those serving in tax-free combat zones are allowed up to \$41,000 in annual contributions.

Airmen can enroll through the Defense Finance and Accounting Service Web site at www.dfas.mil/emss/.

Contribution allocations can be made by calling the automated ThriftLine at (504)

255-8777 or on the Web at www.tsp.gov/. For general questions, call the Air Force contact center at (800) 616-3775.

Specific TSP information is available for Airmen at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/mpf/TSP/thrift_savings_plan.htm. For civilians, contribution limits are based on which retirement system an employee has. For the current open season, the following contribution rates apply:

Federal Employees' Retirement System employees may contribute up to 14 percent of basic pay each pay period. Once eligible, the government provides matching funds of up to 4 percent as well as an automatic 1 percent each pay period, whether the employee contributes or not, making the government's contribution 5 percent. Employees covered by the Civil Service Retirement System may contribute up to 9 percent of basic pay, but they do not receive any agency contributions.

The percentage civilian employees may contribute will be restricted by the Internal Revenue Service's annual limit of \$13,000 this year, Ms. Thomas said.

Specific information is available for civilian employees on the TSP Web site at

www.tsp.gov/ or the BEST home page at www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST/menu.htm.

All Air Force civilian employees can make their TSP contribution elections or changes through the BEST automated phone system at (800) 616-3775. Hearing impaired employees can contact BEST by calling TDD (800) 382-0893 or commercial 565-2276 within San Antonio.

Contribution allocations (how an employee chooses to invest money among the five funds) are made by calling the automated ThriftLine at (504) 255-8777 or on the TSP Web site. Thrift Savings Plan officials have announced several changes to the loan program effective July 1. They are:

A \$50 fee will be deducted from the amount of each new loan.

When participants pay off one loan, they will not be eligible to apply for another loan for 60 days.

More information about TSP can be found in the booklet "Summary of the Thrift Savings Plan" on the TSP home page under civilian or uniformed services TSP Forms and Publications. (*AFPC News Service*)



Ride hard, shoot straight
and always speak the truth



Women's History Month: Closing the chapter for 2004 celebrations

By TSgt. Jane Terrell

Gunfighter military equal opportunity

Women's History Month concluded March 31 with a luncheon at the Gunfighters Club. The month had events to celebrate women's roles in U.S. and armed forces history. Celebrations started with a cake cutting ceremony, hosted by the base exchange and supported by the Mountain Home commissary deli bakery service.

The next event was a taste fest that featured "favorite family recipes."

Recipes included everything from time-honored recipes passed down through the generations to modern family favorites. The library also supported the month-long celebration with a library display called "Bringing the History of Women to Life with Books."

During the middle of the month the Women's Forum "Brown Bag It for Lunch" brought a panel of five members to speak about issues affecting women today.

Maj. Cheryl Minto, 366th Maintenance Operations Squadron commander, spoke on nontraditional roles of women followed by talks from various agencies both on and off base.

Representatives included Maj. Lisa Randall, 366th Medical Operations Squadron, speaking on health issues; Ms. Nancy Emery from the base education center; Mr. Ron Emry from the family support center talking on the thrift savings plan and Ms. Irene Gonzalez and Ms. Sherrie Sugden from the Small Business Association in Boise.

The youth center hosted a carnival March 19 that allowed younger Gunfighters to learn about women in history. Members of the women's history committee volunteered to role play historical women, answering questions and telling "their" stories.

The children interacted with such figures as Harriet Tubman, Rosa Parks, Emma Aima Nawahi, Hawaiian patriot and journalist, Sacajawea, Betsy Ross, Beyonce Knowles, Clara Barton and Kitty Wilkins -- the "Horse Queen of the West" who even brought along a horse for the children to see. Title IX -- an educational amendment from 1972 that gave women equality in sports programs -- also had a display available.



Air Force photo

TSgt. Carole Williams-Hayes, women's history committee president, and Col. Ted Thompson, 366th Fighter Wing vice commander, cut a cake during a celebration Monday to kick off Women's History Month. The cake cutting was one of many events celebrating women in history that took place throughout March.

The next journey through Women's History month took Gunfighters to a family health and wellness fair that included a walk or run. Hundreds came to the fitness center to take part in and learn about health and fitness. Health awareness booths were set up by various agencies on base.

The first women's book club and tea time kicked off March 30 at the community center. Finally, the month concluded with a luncheon hosted by the Gunfighters Club.

The speaker, Ms. Leslie Goddard, spoke about issues that have faced women both in the past and the present.

These events would not have been possible without efforts of the women's history committee and volunteers from the base community.

Heritage months are a time to reflect on the priceless contributions from the past that helped to build the nation as we know it today.



Checkin' it out

(Above) A1C Swift Moon, 366th Civil Engineer Squadron, has his vital signs monitored by a member of the fire department as part of exercise operations April 2. (Right) A1C Ian Seavey, 366th CES, helps A1C Moon get all his gear on properly prior to making initial entry into Bldg. 512 during major accident response exercise 04-01. (Far right) SrA. Jeremiah McClosky, 366th CES, conducts recon on the suspicious package that was used to start the exercise Friday.



Photos by SSgt. Kathy Myles

Easter extravaganza offers family fun



Photos by SrA. Chawntain Sloan

More than 100 Gunfighters attended the Easter extravaganza Sunday at the community center. Events included an egg hunt, face painting, games and various crafts.



Brooke Nielsen, 5, makes a bookmark as her craft during the Easter extravaganza Sunday.



Briah Moss, 6, creates an Easter bonnet at the community center.